PLASTICS CAN BE HELPFUL

Plastics can be very useful to you.

Cuttings of house plants, woody plants, perennials and annuals, for example, may be rooted the roll way.

Lay a strip of polyethylene (about 8 inches wide and 2 to 3 feet long) flat on the table, cover the upper half with moist peatmoss, (or sphagnum) and lay cuttings on their side on the moss. Fold up the lower half of the sheet and, starting at one end, roll the strip into a neat package. The package may be stored in a propogating box or coldframe if you are in the colder areas. Little or no watering will be needed until rooting has occurred.

To reduce the drying out of your potted house plants, wrap the pots with polyethylene sheeting. This retains the water for up to 3 weeks.

These ideas are from Lewis Lipp, propagator of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., and Dave V. Sweet, Horticulturist of Michigan State College, East Lansing Mich.

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SHOW DATES

At the time of press the following dates have been asked for by the various chapters. If your chapter has not set the date of this season's show please let us know as soon as possible when it will be so we can list it.

September 11th	-	Halifax Chapter
September 18th	-	Jacksonville Chapter
September 25th	-	Mid-Florida Chapter
October 2nd	-	Sunset Chapter

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A small boy stood gazing at a horse and wagon while the milkman delivered milk. When he came out the boy observed, "Mister, that horse will never get you home." "And pray, why not?" asked the milkman. The small boy explained, "He just lost all his gasoline."

HIBISCUS AND ITS CULTURE IN PUERTO RICO

By: Jose Ramirez, Horticulturist

I have tall, upright, growing plants, medium growing plants 4 to 5 feet high and spreading and low growing close to the ground.

Planting: My plants are set in "raised beds" which are around eight to ten inches high and the distances between plants and rows are three and a half feet by three and a half feet.

My "raised beds" are made up of sandy loam, clay loam, well cedayed cow manure and decayed sugar cane residue, which is a by-product of the sugar juice clarification and decantation processes. This sugar cane by-product is rich in nutritional elements and fibrous matter helps to improve the soil condition, thus making the soil more suitable to the work of bacteria and fungi.

Watering: As I have my plants set in the ground, I water them thoroughly twice weekly and to the plants that I keep in cans, water them more frequently.

Fertilizer: I use a complete fertilizer in order to grow strong, sturdy and healthy plants with plenty of flowers. The analysis used by me is a 6-8-10 which is slightly acid in reaction due to the sulphate of ammonia used in its formula. For satisfactory growth and development of Hibiscus the soil must have a pH. around 6.2 to 6.5 that is slightly acid in reaction so that soil bacteria and fungi make all nutrients available for absorption by the root hairs of the plants. I apply to a full grown plant half a pound of fertilizer every six to eight weeks during the rainy season due to the leaching caused by rain wash out. During the dry spell I fertilize my plants every eight weeks and during the dry spell I apply a light application of sulphate of ammonia to stimulate the growth of new bud formation.

Whenever I observe that some of my plants are out of shape I spray them with a nutritional spray called "Nutri-leaf 60" at the rate of one tablespoonfull to